



# Journal of Islamic Thought and Civilization (JITC)

Volume 11 Issue 1, Spring 2021

pISSN: 2075-0943, eISSN: 2520-0313

Journal DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32350/jitc>

Issue DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32350/jitc.111>

Homepage: <https://journals.umt.edu.pk/index.php/JITC>

Journal QR Code:



## Indexing



Article:

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Published:

Spring 2021

Article DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.32350/jitc.111.24>

QR Code:



Hamed Othman Fallatah

Citation:

Fallatah, Hamed Othman, Mohd Al'ikhsan Bin Ghazali, Ahmed A. A. Shehab and Nurazmallail Bin Marni. "The Impact of rumors in KSA and its resolution as stated in Hadith." *Journal of Islamic Thought and Civilization* 11, no. 1 (2021). 439-452.

[Crossref](#)

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Estd. 1990

Publisher Information:

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# **The Impact of Rumors in KSA and its Resolution as Stated in Hadith**

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## **Abstract**

The danger of rumor-mongering became familiar since Adam was expelled from Al-Jannah (Paradise). This led the researcher in this study to evaluate the position of people with regards to rumors and its effect on the society. This research adopted the typical approach to investigate the Prophet's traditions on rumors from the nine basic collections of hadith and analyze their texts to bring out the negative religious, social and economic effects of rumors on the individual and society. Also, this research used the questionnaire as one of the quantitative approach tools to attain precise results in the study that was conducted on Saudi Arabia by selecting several random samples to whom the questionnaires were distributed, and feedback was collected. (97%) of the total feedback collected was suitable for analysis. However, the questionnaire contained the aspects such as position of people regarding rumors and effect of rumors on the individual and society religiously, socially and economically. The study concluded that there are few numbers of people who pay attention to spreading every news they hear or read without verification. In the study, the researcher also discussed the religious, social and economic effects of rumors on the individual and society and it became clear that rumors affect the individual religiously, socially and economically at a (very low level). Also, the recommendations including: to conduct a careful and specialist study of this subject, to generalize the teachings of the dangers of rumor mongering in order to curtail it and to establish a specialized body to fight rumormongering.

**Keywords:** rumors; individual & society; Prophet's traditions; KSA; rumormongering

## **Introduction**

Humanity has known rumors for a long time, and the reason for the emergence of this is envy and arrogance. A rumor is considered the greatest loss in history, which is the going

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away of humans from Paradise to the earth. The Muslim should seek it in order to protect themselves from the evil of this scourge, in this period and with the multiplicity of means of transmitting information and the ease of use, tomorrow spreading rumors is more dangerous than before although these methods give the recipient the opportunity to verify and clarify. In this study, the researcher will discuss spreading rumors and the dangerous dimension to reach with a presentation of some ways that the nation should adhere to.

In conclusion, this study aims to contribute to the advancement of human behavior that would lead to the architecture and preservation of this land through a scientific study. Human and rumors are two conjunctions that do not separate, wherever a person found, there are rumors, and wherever there are rumors, there are persons. They are as old as humanity, and the motive for them is the dearest of control and possession, and their basis is lies, and the motivation for them is the human goal for perusal, so they are not devoid of rumors in a human being intentionally or unintentionally, Hence, all the laws have paid special attention to the popular women by preserving the display, which is one of the five necessities that all the laws have agreed to preserve, and most of the rumors are the fruit of delving into people's symptoms, to undermine the honor or money.

The preservation of the laws on the necessity of presentation stems from preserving the life of an individual and the community, as there is no way for the continuation of relations between individuals and societies except through political authority. Rumors disseminate easily these days with expanding social networks. Although rumors are neither true nor false, this does not stop some individuals from spreading it any way before searching for some kind of confirmation<sup>1</sup>.

The continuation of relations between individuals and societies is the reason for the continuation of life, and one of the requirements for the continuation of this life is the existence of a system in which these five imperatives (religion, soul, honor, money and reason), therefore came the prohibition of the Muslim inflicting harm on others.

The spread of rumors between individuals and societies is almost a phenomenon that is not absent in a religious, social, economic, or political context, how many friendships ended, partners separated, society was corrupted, war was ignited, and economy went bankrupt. Social media sites have played a major role in spreading fake news and rumors, despite the difference between the goals that the perpetrators of these crimes try to achieve whether these goals are political or economic.<sup>2</sup>

The spread of the phenomenon of rumors among the nation to answer in particular, and the nation of *Dawaa* in general, so it was obligatory for the authors to clarify, and guide the nation in how to face it.

<sup>1</sup>Moataz Abdullah, *Psychological War and Rumors* (Cairo: Dar Gharib, 2007).

<sup>2</sup>S. A. M. A. Al Shehhi, D. A. B. C. Yaacob, N. bin Marni, Ahmed Shehab, "The Crime of Spreading Fake News and Rumors from the Perspective of Islamic Sharī 'ah and the Laws," *Journal of Solid State Technology* 63 No. 6 (2020): 9565 – 9571.

<https://solidstatetechnology.us/index.php/JSST/article/view/5436>. Accessed May 20, 2021.

### 1.1 Aims and Objectives of the Study

The study aims to publish awareness among individuals and societies through theoretical and practical studies that inform them of conviction about the harms of rumors by dividing them into the following sections: The aim of this research is divided into three parts: a general goal and a 'special goal', and knowledge of the religious, social and economic position of civil society on rumors.

- *The general goal* is to contribute to the advancement of the nations to a level consistent with the Qur'anic approach.
- *The special goal* is as follows:
  - Collecting hadith stories that were mentioned in rumors in the nine books, and judging them according to the books in which they were mentioned, and weighting between the evidence.
  - The Saudi position, and specifically the civil society (Medina), towards rumors by highlighting a field study emanating from the application of rumor hadiths to the intended groups.
  - Knowing the relation between civil society's position on rumors and their basic information and religious personalities.
  - Knowing the effect of rumors on the individual and society in terms of religious, social and economic terms.

### 1.2 The Importance of this Study

Through research and review of many publications and through the reality surrounding, the importance of this study resulted in it, which is summarized in the following: The importance of this research lies in the seriousness of the rumors and the great impact that they leave on the souls of the Islam Nation and the division caused by this scourge. The researcher has collected it in the following points:

- Highlights the true image of Islam by introducing people to the controls that Islam has drawn up in dealing with rumors.
- The need of the Islamic Nation for such living issues that contribute to the reform of Islamic Nation societies.
- Contributing to the treatment of many social problems, the cause of which was because of the phenomenon of rumors in society.
- Explaining the danger of rumors on the individual and society and their negative impact on the nation.
- Collecting the hadith narratives contained in the nine books as a reference for everyone who wants to write or talk about this topic.

## 2. Methodology

The researcher believes that the mixed methodology used in the study, as well as the

study tools, is capable of achieving the study's objectives and answering the study's questions. And that is through the study mechanism, the methodology used in the study, and the tools used to analyze the evidence contained therein. Also, to achieve these goals, the following basic steps must be taken:

- Interact with the data and the current situation to derive the research questions.
- Analysis of the research questions.
- Classifying information into topics and styles.
- Determine the final goals and topics that fall within the research.
- Provide explanations based on the research questions.
- Create and write a report.

### 3. Literature Review

The literature review provides a theoretical framework for this study on the one hand, in addition to being helpful in an in-depth understanding of aspects of the study title on the other hand. Literature review is a list of resources that have addressed one or more parts of study topic or have previously addressed similar or related topics to the topic of this study.

The previous studies considered one of the most important principles of the research as a theoretical framework for the present study on the one hand because they help in an in-depth understanding of aspects of the subject of review and by previous studies, it means the list of sources that dealt with one or more parts of the subject of study or related topics to study.

Usually, researchers recommend their subsequent colleagues to address a problem or group of problems that appeared during their research and to conduct more research in specific issues, where an additional problem arises from the side problems that they cannot leave their original topic and remove into. Also, regarding the subject of the study, the researcher conducted a comprehensive survey on previous studies related to the subject of the study, including books, magazines, official reports, and published research. In addition to scientific materials published on the Internet, as part of the researcher's seek to emphasize the importance of the study, to find the problem of the study, building the structure of the study and setting its objectives. Many studies have carried on with different parts and axes of the study, related to the concept of rumors and the indication of the danger of rumors on the individual and society religiously, socially, and economically.

Through research on previous studies about rumors, several sources got that written on this topic from an aim point of view, and they were useful and reported, but there was no recent study that collected the hadiths mentioned in this topic to be a reference for everyone who wanted to say this. The topic is from a modern perspective, and from these sources that have been accessed:

Alshammari (2019) discusses issues of multiple dimensions in society, through which he contributes to raising awareness of the danger of rumors, the need to fight them, how a

person protects himself and his society from contributing to spreading rumors in direct or indirect manner. Some suggest that institutions take part in confronting rumors.<sup>3</sup>

Abdullah (1997) stated a very useful book with easy-to-understand phrases, arranged in presenting its topics. In this book, the author touched upon some concepts related to psychological warfare, such as the definition of communication and its types in terms of the means used, the degree of its formalism, its directions, and the extent of its influence. The researcher also touched upon the methods of psychological warfare, including propaganda, and what these methods affect the psyche, what are the methods used by other religions, and what are the psychological methods that Muslims used against the enemies of Islam. Abdel-Al, the researcher in this book also touched on an important issue, which causes the spread of rumors, the primary and secondary motives for spreading rumors, and how to confront them.<sup>4</sup>

Nofal (2004) introduced the reader to the hadith of the Qur'ān and *Sunnah* about psychological warfare, and listed psychological warfare stories in the Holy Qur'ān such as the story of Mousa -peace be upon him- with magicians, the story of Solaiman -peace be upon him- with the queen of Yemen, and the psychological war which the prophet Mohammed (SAW) faced in Medina from the Jews and hypocrites. In this research the researcher also touched on Islamic militarism and psychological warfare, which were represented in the psychological factor in the wars of apostasy, waging psychological war before fighting the battle, the moral and the spirit of fighting, as stated by the author, the names of some prominent military leaders in Islam to be role models for the nation. The author concluded his book by talking about Islamic militarism and how to prevent psychological warfare.<sup>5</sup>

Al-Ayed (2008) deals with the Islamic viewpoint on psychological warfare, the methods used by the Qur'ān in psychological warfare, and what are the foundations on which psychological warfare is based. The author also deals with the ways through which the national position is strengthened.<sup>6</sup> Also, Al-Shathry. (2005) dealt with the topic of rumors through the Five Necessities. Also, mentioned the types of human's activity in the rumors and their rule in Islamic law. And showed how to preserve the necessity of display

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<sup>3</sup>Ahlan Alshammari, *The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's War on Terror 1995–2015* (Monroe: University of Louisiana, 2019).

<https://www.proquest.com/openview/629aaa6847326a891aa5bf400ceb06ef/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>. Accessed May 25, 2021.

<sup>4</sup>Moataz Abdullah, *Psychological War and Rumors* (Cairo: Dar Gharib, 2007).

<sup>5</sup>Ahmed Nofal, *Psychological Warfare from an Islamic Perspective* (Jordan: Dar al Furqan, 1984).

<sup>6</sup>Fahad Al-Ayed, *Psychological warfare in the light of the Noble Qur'ān and its Application in the Modern Era* (Riyadh: Al-Sumaiy for Publishing and Distribution, 2008).

by prohibiting through the punishment stipulated in *Sharī'ah*.<sup>7</sup>

The researcher also mentioned in his book how to preserve the necessity of presenting it through modern communication tools. Also, mentioned the role of modern means in fighting rumors and ways to keep modern means from contributing to raising and spreading rumors.

Al-Kalbani (2017) began his book by introducing rumors, as is the custom in such research, by mentioning the types, objectives, characteristics, means, and factors affecting the spread of rumors and mentioning the target parties for rumors. The researcher also mentioned the relationship between rumors and psychology, in order to learn through it the relationship between rumors and psychological warfare and the effect of rumors on morale. The researcher spoke about the impact of rumors on security and the role of social media in spreading rumors, and concluded his book on how to confront rumors.<sup>8</sup>

Sciences (2020)'s book, collection of books dealing with one topic, and it is summarized in the following: Islam and rumors, the use of modern technology in rumors, modern methods of psychological and social immunization against rumors, the rulings of rumors in the comparative penal law, rumors and security, Islam and rumors - the purposes of *Sharī'ah* in preserving the necessity of display and its means by combating rumors.<sup>9</sup>

Ismail (2001) began his book by talking about Surat al-Nūr in terms of its name, the number of verses, the place and the reason for revelation, and their connection to what came before it, their characteristics and objectives, then he talked about the wisdom of the legislation of Islamic penalizations, then entered the core of his research, which is to talk about the greatest rumor that occurred to the Islamic nation, represented in the incident of falsification.<sup>10</sup> Also, (Tawabeh, 2006) dealt with media and propaganda in the Iran-Iraq war, as well as comparative images of the media in Iran and Iraq during the 1980 AD - 1988 AD. Also talked about the position of the Arab and international media regarding the Iraqi and Iranian wars. This book also dealt with the media dependency of developing

<sup>7</sup>Saad Al-Shathry, *The Objectives of Islamic Law in Preserving the Necessity of Honour and Its Methods by Fighting Rumors* (KSA: Seville for Publishing and Distribution, 2005). <https://search.mandumah.com/Record/491033>. Accessed June 05, 2021

<sup>8</sup>Ali Al-Kalbani, *Rumors and their Danger Considering the Modern Media* (KSA: Book World for Publishing and Distribution, 2017).

<sup>9</sup>*Methods for Confronting Rumors* (KSA: Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, 2001). <https://library.nauss.edu.sa/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=5892>. Accessed June 10, 2021

<sup>10</sup>D. N. B. M. A. Ismail, *The Message of the Holy Qur'an in the Face of Sedition and Rumors considering Surat Al-Nūr* (KSA: Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, 2001). <https://library.nauss.edu.sa/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=21061>. Accessed June 10, 2021

countries on Western media and what are the dangerous consequences.<sup>11</sup>

Therefore, the author also addressed in his book the communications revolution and cultural and media globalization and its impact on developing countries culturally, economically, socially and politically.

Kapferer (2013) addressed a number of important topics related to rumors, including: the methods used to attract people to believe the rumors, represented in selecting the rumors that are suitable to be rumors, and choosing the appropriate time and place to broadcast this rumor. The author concluded the relationship between rumors, building stardom, and how to change the image of rumors. He concluded his book on how to prevent rumors.<sup>12</sup>

#### 4. Data Analysis

To achieve the objectives of the study, the researcher used the descriptive and analytical method by describing the subject of the study, analyzing its data, the relationship between its components, the opinions that are discussed, the processes it includes and the effects that it produces, as well as the qualitative approach to identify a large number of viewpoints related to the study problem, which are difficult to express in statistical or quantitative methods.

##### 4.1 Study Tools

After reviewing the literature on theory and research related to the research, the questionnaire was chosen as a research tool. This is due to its relevance to the targeted information, and in the same way used in the study, which is consistent with achieving the research objectives. Because of the limited availability of basic data on the topic.

- Theoretical study: It is summarized in the educational literature related to rumors and their impact on the individual and society, by reviewing books, references, articles, related research, and topics related to the current topic of research.
- Field study: by preparing research tools and applying them in the field to the members of the research sample to find out their opinions, analyzing the views that were subsequently reached using appropriate statistical methods, and reaching conclusions by interpreting these data, discussing them and comparing them with the results of other studies, and then providing recommendations.

##### 4.2 Study Population and Sample

The study followed an easy random method to reach the sample, so the number of

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<sup>11</sup>Hassan Tawalbeh, *Propaganda and Psychological Warfare* (Jordan: The Modern World of Books for Publishing and Distribution, 2006). <https://www.almoqtabas.com/ar/publications/view/26800509189232576>. Accessed June 15, 2021

<sup>12</sup>Kapferer, *Rumors: Uses, Interpretations, and Images* (USA: Transaction Publishers, 2013). [https://books.google.ps/books?id=IizqaDW\\_NMgC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.ps/books?id=IizqaDW_NMgC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false). Accessed May 28, 2021



sample members reached 618 individuals, through the use of statistical equations, according to the American Education Association, as the minimum sample size was determined with 217 individuals, which is 95% confidence and the ability of the error percentage. 0,05. An exploratory sample consisting of 30 individuals - from outside the final research sample - was chosen to control the research tools.

1. What is people's attitude towards rumors?
2. What is the effect of rumors on an individual religiously, socially and economically?
3. What is the effect of rumors on the religious, social and economic community?

To answer the first question (What is people's attitude towards rumors?), weighted arithmetic averages and standard deviations were calculated for the responses of the individuals of the research sample about the phrases of the first axis: people's attitude towards rumors, then the phrases were arranged in descending order according to the highest values of the weighted arithmetic mean, and according to the lowest values of dispersion, which is represented by the standard deviation. It is evident that the weighted arithmetic averages about people's attitude towards rumors from the viewpoint of the members of the research sample ranged between (1.58 - 3.02), and the general arithmetic mean reached (2.46) of five points in light of the distribution of the lengths of the categories according to the gradient used in Questionnaire, See Table 1.

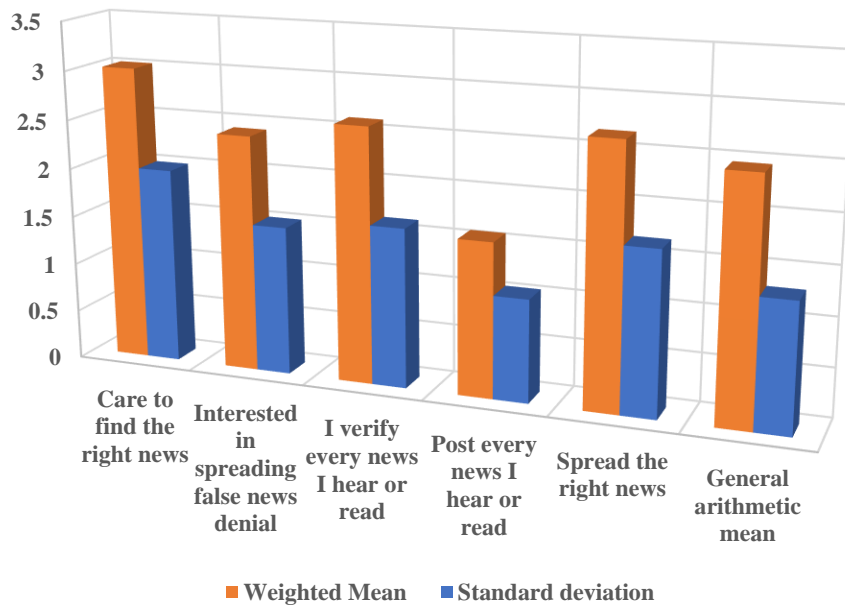
**Table 1.** Arithmetic Averages of The Views of The Respondents on The People's Attitude Towards the Rumors

Phrase No.	Phrase	Weighted Mean	Standard deviation	Score, approval	rating
1	Care to find the right news	3.02	2.00	1	Medium
2	Interested in spreading false news denial	2.42	1.52	4	Weak
3	I verify every news I hear or read	2.61	1.63	3	Medium
4	Post every news I hear or read	1.58	1.05	5	Very weak
5	Spread the right news	2.67	1.67	2	Medium
	General arithmetic mean	2.46	1.31		Weak

In light of (What is the effect of rumors on an individual religiously, socially and economically?). It is evident that the general arithmetic mean of the effect of rumors on the individual religiously, socially and economically from the viewpoint of the individuals of the research sample reached (1.76) from five points in light of the distribution of the lengths of the categories according to the gradient used in the questionnaire, and this indicates that the individuals of the research sample can see that there is an effect of the rumors. On the individual religiously, socially and economically (to a very weak degree), it is clear that the effect of rumors on the individual was arranged in descending order according to the

highest value of the weighted arithmetic mean, and according to the lowest values of dispersion, which is represented by the standard deviation as follows:

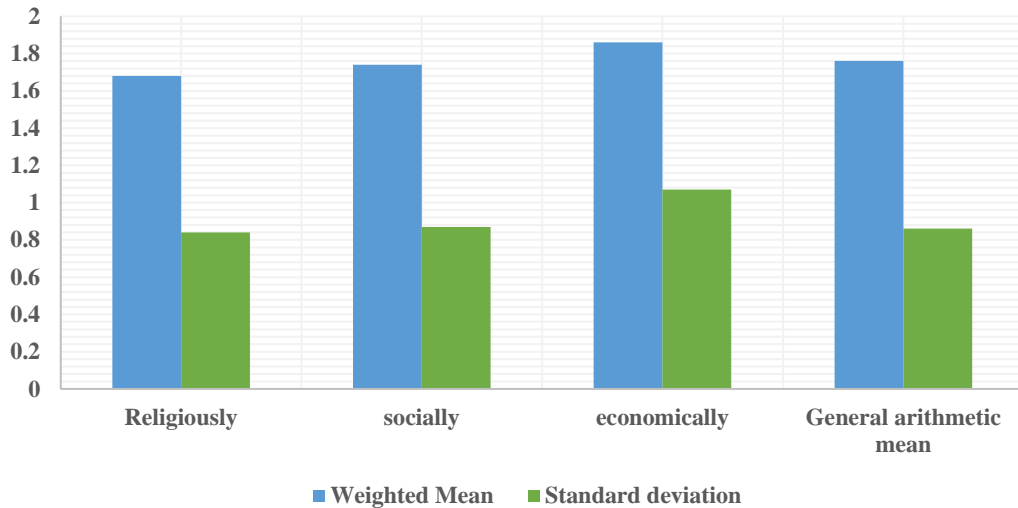
- The economic impact is average (1.86) and with a weak degree.
- The social impact is at an average of (1.74) and with a very weak degree.
- The religious impact is average (1.68) and very weak.



**Figure 1.** Arithmetic Averages of The Views of The Respondents on The People's Attitude Towards the Rumors

**Table 2.** Arithmetic Means and Standard Deviations of The Effect of Rumors on an Individual

Phrase No.	The effect of rumors on the individual	Weighted Mean	Standard deviation	Score, approval	Rating
1	Religiously	1,68	0,84	2	Very weak
2	socially	1,74	0,87	3	Very weak
3	economically	1,86	1,07	1	Weak
4	General arithmetic mean	1,76	0,86		Very weak



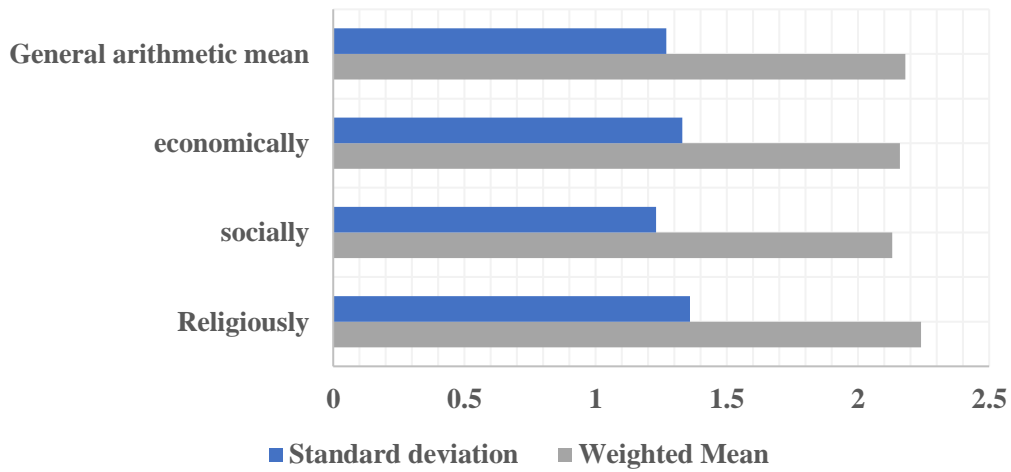
**Figure 2.** Arithmetic Means and Standard Deviations of The Effect of Rumors on an Individual

It is evident that the general arithmetic mean of the effect of rumors on the community religiously, socially and economically from the point of view of the individuals of the research sample reached (2.18) from five points in light of the distribution of the lengths of the categories according to the gradient used in the questionnaire, and this indicates that the individuals of the research sample see that there is an effect of the rumors on society. Religious, social and economic (to a weak degree). It is clear that the effect of rumors on society was ranked in downward order according to the highest value of the weighted arithmetic mean, and according to the lowest values of dispersion, which is represented by the standard deviation as follows:

- The religious impact is average (2.24) and with a weak degree.
- The economic impact is average (2.16) and with a weak degree.
- The social impact is average (2.13) and weak.

**Table 3.** Arithmetic Means and Standard Deviations of The Effect of Rumors on The Society

Phrase No.	The effect of rumors on the individual	Weighted Mean	Standard deviation	Score, approval	Rating
1	Religiously	2.24	1.36	1	weak
2	socially	2.13	1,23	3	weak
3	economically	2.16	1,33	2	weak
4	General arithmetic mean	2.18	1,27		weak



**Figure 3.** Arithmetic Means and Standard Deviations of The Effect of Rumors on The Society

## 5. Conclusion

The field study reached a list of results, the most important of which are:

- Media means searching for information for most of the research sample.
- Most members of the research sample using social media in range from one to two hours.
- Social media is the preferred method for obtaining the news among the respondents to the questionnaire.
- That there is an impact of rumors on the individual religiously, socially and economically (very weak degree).
- The most common attitude people take toward rumors is to look for the accurate news.
- The least of the attitudes that people take from rumors is to publish every piece of news they hear or read.
- That there is an effect of rumors on the religious individual (very weak degree).
- The greatest impact of rumors on the religious individual is the extensive amount of religious differences with others because of rumors.
- That there is an impact of rumors on the individual socially (very weak degree).
- That rumors have an economic impact on the individual (weak degree).
- That rumors have an effect on the religious, social and economic community (very weak degree).
- That rumors have an effect on the religious community (weak degree).
- The rumors have a social impact (weak degree).
- That rumors have an economic impact on society (weak degree).

## 6. Recommendations

Considering the results of the study, the researcher recommends the following:

- Adhering to the Islamic approach in dealing with rumors.
- Publicize awareness among community members of the dangers of rumors.
- The participation of all governmental and private institutions in facing rumors.
- Represent logical laws that deter those who think of spreading rumors.
- Control of social media and the media in order to limit the spread of rumors.
- Use courses at schools and universities in order to inform society about the danger of rumors and how to deal with them.
- Create a special body to deal with rumors.

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